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To whom it may concern:

June 18, 2021

Arizona State University (ASU) would like to submit its formal application to join the International Coral Reef Initiative as a member organization. With our University's emphasis on critical social, technical, cultural and environmental issues facing 21st century and having created centers such as the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and the Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science to address these exact solutions, we feel strongly that our organization would be a valuable addition to the Initiative.

The Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science (GDCS) has recently taken ownership of the Allen Coral Atlas, a coral reef mapping and monitoring system, from Vulcan Inc, who is also a member of ICRI. The Center, led by Professor Greg Asner, leads spatially-explicit scientific and technological research focused on mitigating and adapting to global environmental change. We feel it would be mutually beneficial for ASU to be a member of the ICRI in order to hear the needs of governments, ocean health practitioners, and scientific organizations so that we can support their development.

The Allen Coral Atlas, now led by GDCS, is highly aligned with ICRI's objectives of 1) encouraging adoption of best practices in coral reef management, 2) capacity-building, and 3) raising awareness of the plight of coral reefs around the world. The Atlas' overarching goal is to improve global coral reef health through more comprehensive marine spatial planning, more efficient restoration, reduction of disaster risk, and mitigation of localized stressors by providing timely, high-resolution mapping and monitoring to researchers, governments and conservationists. In support of that main objective, the Allen Coral Atlas team prioritizes communications and outreach to support the coral reef community's technical understanding of the datasets and the use of the products of the Atlas.

We would welcome the opportunity to attend ICRI's General Meeting to further discuss our membership and merits to the group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Schlosser".

Peter Schlosser